

## Message Text

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AA/AFR:DBROWN(DRAFT) OPA:JREILLY

AF/E:ESCHREIBER (DRAFT)

PHA/FDRC:TMCCCLURE (INFO)

FFP:KBITTERMAN (INFO)

PPC:PBOUGHTON (INFO)

AFR/DP:JGOVAN (INFO)

L/CLS:SDILLON (INFO)

S/PRS:PHARE (INFO)

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK BY POUCH

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E.O.11652 N/A

JOINT STATE/AID

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA FAMINE

REF: STATE 231988

1. SEN KENNEDY CHAIRMAN JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES

NOV 27 ISSUED PRESS RELEASE AND WROTE TO SECRETARY

KISSINGER RAISING QUESTIONS RE SCOPE AND ADEQUACY US RE-  
SPONSE TO ETHIOPIAN FAMINE. (COPIES BEING POUCHED.)

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2. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

QUOTE RECENT REPORTS INDICATE THAT INCREASINGLY SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS ARE PRODUCING WIDESPREAD HUNGER AND FAMINE IN MANY AREAS ETHIOPIA DISPLACING MILLIONS AND THREATENING LIVES SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE. AS IN MY EARLIER INQUIRY ON FOOD CRISIS WEST AFRICA, I WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING DEPARTMENT'S ASSESSMENT OF DROUGHT AND FAMINE CONDITIONS IN ETHIOPIA, WHAT HAS BEEN, TO DATE, OUR GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE IN SUPPORT EFFORTS TO MEET GROWING FOOD NEEDS IN THIS AREA, AND WHAT ANTICIPATED NEEDS WILL BE OVER COMING YEAR.

IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S EVALUATION OF ENCLOSED REPORT PREPARED BY THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN ADDIS

ABABA ON OCTOBER 2ND, ENTITLED "A REVIEW OF IMPLICATIONS OF THE DROUGHT IN THE STRICKEN AREAS OF TIGRE AND WOLLO PROVINCES IN ETHIOPIA." THIS DISTURBING REPORT HAS BEEN CORROBORATED BY MANY OTHER REPORTS I HAVE RECEIVED FROM FIELD, AND IT INDICATES THAT EFFECTS OF ETHIOPIA'S THREE-YEAR DROUGHT HAVE BEEN "CATASTROPHIC" IN MANY AREAS, AND HAS PRODUCED CONDITIONS NOT UNLIKE THOSE IN SAHEL REGION OF WEST AFRICA.

HOWEVER, IN CONVERSATIONS WHICH MEMBERS OF MY STAFF HAVE HAD WITH OFFICIALS IN DEPARTMENT AND WITHIN AID, A MORE OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN WHICH RUNS COUNTER, IN MANY RESPECTS, TO UNDP REPORT. WHILE THESE OFFICIALS DESCRIBE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA AS "SERIOUS", AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAS APPARENTLY NOT DECLARED AN EMERGENCY NOR CABLED FOR URGENT RELIEF SUPPLIES OR FUNDS. YET, IF UNDP REPORT AND OTHERS ARE CORRECT IN THEIR ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION, SERIOUS QUESTIONS MUST BE RAISED AS TO ADEQUACY OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE.

IN ADDITION TO AN EVALUATION OF UNDP REPORT, I WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO THESE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO DROUGHT AND FAMINE CONDITIONS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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ETHIOPIA:

1.) WHAT STUDIES HAVE AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN FIELD COMPLETED ON FOOD SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA, WHAT ARE THEIR FINDINGS, AND CAN COPIES OF THESE REPORTS BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SUBCOMMITTEE? WHAT ARE ESTIMATED FOOD IMPORTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ETHIOPIA FOR COMING YEAR?

2.) WHAT HAS BEEN, TO DATE, RESPONSE OF USG IN FOOD AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORT IN ETHIOPIA, AND WHAT AMOUNTS ARE ANTICIPATED OVER COMING YEAR? WHAT AGENCIES OF USG ARE INVOLVED, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, IN FOOD RELIEF PROGRAMS?

3.) WHAT CONTRIBUTION IN FOOD OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN MADE BY OTHER NATIONS, AND HAS USG AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN MULTILATERAL RELIEF EFFORTS? WHAT FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ARE ANTICIPATED OVER COMING YEAR?

4.) WHAT REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL OR FOOD ASSISTANCE ARE CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW BY AID, EITHER BY INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS OR BY PRIVATE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES? HAVE ANY REQUESTS BEEN MADE OR DENIED, AND, IF DENIED, FOR WHAT REASONS?

AS IN OUR EARLIER INQUIRY INTO HUMANITARIAN NEEDS CREATED BY SAHELIAN DROUGHT, ABOVE INFORMATION WILL BE USEFUL IN SUBCOMMITTEE'S ASSESSMENT OF HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN ETHIOPIA. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU SOON. END QUOTE.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP EMBASSY/USAID COMMENTS ON LETTER FOR INCLUSION IN REPLY. UNDRP REPORT CONTAINED STATE 231148 CAN BE PASSED TO SEN KENNEDY AS PARTIAL UPDATING OF OCTOBER 2 UNDP REPORT. IN ADDITION TO REPLIES TO GENERAL AND SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN LETTER, WE WOULD LIKE REPORT ON AMOUNTS OF DONOR RELIEF FOOD OR OTHER COMMODITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN (A) RECEIVED IN ETHIOPIA AND (B) DISTRIBUTED TO FAMINE AREAS. ALSO, IF INFO AVAILABLE, AMOUNTS OF IEG RESOURCES DISTRIBUTED IN DROUGHT AREAS.

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4. IN ELABORATING ON PARA 2 ADDIS 13247, REQUEST (A) COMMENT ON REQUIREMENTS TO ASSIST IEG ADMINISTRATIVE CAPABILITIES (AND IEG DESIRES RELATING THERETO) AND UNDP AND OTHER DONOR EFFORTS THIS PROBLEM, AND (B) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USG AND AMERICAN VOLUNTARY AGENCY ACTIVITY.

5. SINCE KENNEDY PRESS RELEASE/LETTER MAY EVOKE QUESTIONS DEPARTMENT/AID USING FOLLOWING AS PRESS GUIDANCE:

QUOTE DEPARTMENT SHARES SENATOR KENNEDY'S CONCERN ABOUT DROUGHT AND FAMINE CONDITIONS IN ETHIOPIA. USG RESPONDED O ETHIOPIAN REQUESTS WHEN WE COMMITTED ABOUT 23,000 TONS OF WHEAT, MAIZE AND SORGHUM THROUGH GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AND WORLD FOOD PROGRAMS. ABOUT 14,000 TONS OF

THIS AMOUNT HAVE ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED IN ETHIOPIA OR WILL ARRIVE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. REMAINDER DUE IN JANUARY. TO DATE, MORE THAN 53,000 TONS OF GRAINS AND LARGE AMOUNTS OF OTHER RELIEF COMMODITIES AND CASH HAVE BEEN PLEDGED BY GOVERNMENTS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. NEVERTHELESS, IT HAS BECOME CLEAR IN PAST FEW WEEKS THAT REQUIREMENTS FOR CY 1974 EXCEED CURRENT COMMITMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORT WILL HAVE TO BE EXPANDED. THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND AID MISSION IN ADDIS ABABA ARE CURRENTLY REVIEWING WITH ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AND OTHER DONORS WHAT ADDITIONAL AMERICAN INPUTS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT'S RELIEF PROGRAM. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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